

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing an efficiency of a data processing system, the method comprising:

identifying a plurality of operations awaiting execution on at least one service component of said data processing system;

assigning an initial priority ranking to each of said plurality of operations; **and**

dynamically modifying said assigned initial priority rankings to optimize said efficiency of said data processing system;

determining a service demand placed upon each of the service components arising from performance of said plurality of operations; and

estimating a utilization rate for each of the service components based on said determined service demands, wherein said dynamically modifying includes adjusting said assigned initial priority rankings to substantially equalize said utilization rates of the service components.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of operations comprise an operation internal to said at least one service component and an operation external to said at least one service component, the method further comprising the step of:

selecting one of the internal operation and the external operation for execution from said plurality of operations based on a utilization rate of said at least one service component.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein said selecting comprises:

directing said at least one service component to execute said operations external to said at least one service component when said utilization rate is below a pre-determined threshold.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said directing comprises:

adjusting priority rankings of said external operations so as to surpass priority rankings of said internal operations.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein one of said plurality of service components is a hierarchical storage device and said plurality of operations comprise operations internal to said storage device and operations occurring between said storage device and a host device and wherein said selecting comprises :

selecting one of an operation internal to said storage device and an operation occurring between said storage device and said host device based on a utilization rate of said storage device.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein one of said plurality of service components is a hierarchical storage device and said plurality of operations comprise direct data transfer operations between a device external to said hierarchical storage device and combinations of said direct data transfer operations and migrations of data between different levels of said hierarchical storage device and wherein selecting comprises:

selecting, for execution, one of a direct data transfer operation and said combination of a direct data transfer operation and a migration of data between different levels of said hierarchical storage device, based on a utilization rate of said hierarchical storage system.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said selecting comprises:

causing said hierarchical storage device to execute substantially only said direct data transfer operations when a utilization rate of said hierarchical storage device is below a predetermined threshold.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for providing adaptive performance optimization of a data processing system, the system comprising:
- at least one hierarchical storage device having a plurality of storage levels;
- a host device for conducting communication with said at least one hierarchical storage device; and
- a priority manager for prioritizing work requests affecting data stored in said at least one hierarchical storage device during run time of said data processing system;
- a workload identifier for identifying each of a plurality of workloads;
- a performance demand associated with each of said plurality of workloads, thereby establishing a plurality of performance demands;
- an initial priority ranking associated with each of said plurality of workloads, thereby establishing a plurality of initial priority rankings; and
- a ranking controller for adjusting at least one of said initial priority ranking in order to service a performance demand of at least one of said plurality of workloads.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 further comprising:
- a request queue in communication with said priority manager for storing work requests incoming from at least one of said host device and said at least one hierarchical storage device.
11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein said stored work requests comprise:
- external work requests describing a data transfer operation between said at least one hierarchical storage device and said host device; and
- internal work requests describing a data transfer operation between different levels in said at least one hierarchical storage device.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10 further comprising:
a utilization evaluator for calculating utilization rates of said at least one hierarchical storage device based upon said stored work requests in said request queue.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 further comprising:
a service level guarantee associated with one of said performance demand for establishing a minimum level of service for said one of said performance demand.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having program logic recorded thereon for optimizing an operation of a hierarchical RAID (redundant array of independent disks) storage device included in a data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

code for transferring data blocks between said RAID storage device and a host device of said data processing system;

code for migrating selected data blocks between different levels of said RAID storage device; and

code for determining, during run time of said data processing system, an order for executing said code for transferring and said code for migrating, said code for determining comprising code for determining service demand; and

code for estimating a utilization rate for each RAID storage level based on determined service demand.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 16 further comprising:

code for establishing an initial priority for work requests from at least one of said code for transferring and said code for migrating, wherein said work requests from said code for transferring are transfer work requests and said work requests from said code for migrating are migrating work requests.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising:
code for determining a service demand imposed upon said RAID storage device based
on said transfer work requests and said migrating work requests.
19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising:
code for modifying said established initial priority for said transfer work requests and
said migrating work requests based upon said determined service demand.
20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein
said code for modifying comprises:
code for adjusting said established initial priority to substantially equalize utilization
rates at of at least two of said different RAID storage levels.